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City of St. Albans.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1947.

ST. ALBANS:

PRINTED BY H. A. RICHARDSON, LTD., 5 HIGH STREET.

1948.

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1948.

Public Health Department.

Dr. C. L. ELDER, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.
Medical Superintendent, Sisters' Hospital.
1st March to 30th November, 1947.

R. E. C. GODDARD, F.S.I.A.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.
Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

C. A. BAILEY, M.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I.,
Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector.
Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

A. L. GOOD, M.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I., A.M.I.S.E.
Sanitary Inspector.
Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

C. W. MCHUGO, F.R.I.C.,
Public Analyst (part-time).

Miss M. STONE.

Mrs. H. K. LETCHFORD.

CITY OF ST. ALBANS.

Public Health Department,
38 St. Peter's Street,
St. Albans,
April, 1948.

*To the Mayor and Corporation of the
City of St. Albans.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the work carried out by the Public Health Department during the year 1947.

Consequent upon the death in 1946 of Dr. R. R. K. Paton, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., who had been Medical Officer of Health since January, 1924, Dr. C. L. Elder, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., was appointed Medical Officer of Health and commenced duty on March 1st, 1947. Later in the year Dr. Elder was appointed Medical Officer of Health to the County Borough of Middlesbrough and resigned his post in St. Albans on 30th November, 1947.

This report, which is necessarily abbreviated so far as the medical statistics are concerned, has been prepared on the instructions of the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee to whom I wish to express appreciation for the support received by the staff throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

R. E. C. GODDARD,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

General Statistics.

Area (acres), 5,129.

Population (1931 Census), 28,625.

Population (estimated), 45,366.

Rateable Value, £399,866.

Sum represented by penny Rate, £1,649.

Vital Statistics.

	Birth Rate per 1000 Population	Death Rate per 1000 Population	Deaths under 1 Year per 1000 Births
England and Wales	Gummed slip to follow.		
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns in- cluding London			
146 Smaller Towns (1931 Census 25,000 to 50,000)			
London			
St. Albans City			

Mortality Table.

CAUSES OF DEATHS.	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
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Gummed slip to follow.

Mortality Table.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	1	...	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	7	5	12
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	2	...	2
Syphilitic Diseases	1	...	1
Influenza	...	3	3
Measles	...	...	...
Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...
Cancer	35	42	77
Intracranial Vascular lesions ...	29	41	70
Heart Disease	89	92	181
Other Circulatory Diseases	10	13	23
Bronchitis	12	9	21
Pneumonia	9	5	14
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	2	1	4
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ...	2	2	4
Appendicitis	...	2	2
Other Digestive Diseases ..	6	10	16
Nephritis	8	7	15
Puerperal Sepsis, &c	...	...	...
Premature Birth	3	1	4
Congenital Malformation	4	5	9
Suicide	1	2	3
Accidents	4	2	6
Other Violent Causes... ..	11	8	19
Cerebrospinal Fever	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	2	2
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...
Diabetes... ..	1	3	4
All other Causes	21	25	46
All Causes ..	260	281	541

Notification of Infectious Diseases during the Year 1947.

DISEASES.	Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.
Diphtheria	2	2
Scarlet Fever	24	14
Pneumonia	6	1
Erysipelas	4	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	1	1
Sonne Dysentery	2	...
Whooping Cough	169	11
Measles	179	3
Jaundice/Hepatitis	15	...
Poliomyelitis... ..	5	4
Polioencephalitis	1	1
Paratyphoid B.	1	1
Otitis Media	1	...
Pulmonary T.B.	34	...
Non-Pulmonary T.B.	8	...
Total	452	38

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...
15	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
25	6	10	...	...	2	5	...	...
35	4	3	1	1	1	...	...	...
45	3	1	...	...	2	...	...	...
55	1	...	...	1	2	...	...	...
65	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals ...	17	18	2	6	8	5	...	...

Hospitals, Nursing Arrangements, etc.

General Hospital—St. Albans and Mid Herts, Church Crescent.

Infectious Diseases—Sisters' Joint Hospital, Normandy Road.

Public Assistance Institution and Infirmary—Osterhills Hospital, Normandy Road.

St. Albans District Nursing Association—29 Beaconsfield Road.

During 1947, 140 Midwifery and Maternity cases were nursed to which 3,044 visits were paid, and 943 General cases to which 19,851 visits were paid. Visits have also been made regarding 173 Post-Natal and 914 Ante-Natal cases.

School Medical Service.

95 visits were made to schools for routine medical examination and 1,770 children were examined. 645 children were found to have defects and were referred for treatment.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The number of children immunised against Diphtheria during the year was 742. Of this number 547 were under school age and 195 between the ages of 5 and 15 years.

In addition 1083 reinforcing doses were given to children previously immunised.

**Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic—Wellington Court,
Bricket Road.**

The numbers at the Centre in 1947 were as follows :

Number on Register—Expectant mothers, 91.

Children (under 5), 1049.

Number of Attendances—

(a) Expectant mothers (consultation with doctor) 443.

(b) Children (under 5) seen by doctor, 3,306.

Attendances (a) 445 ; (b) 8,004.

Average weekly attendance of 154 children.

Sanitary Inspection of Area.

Number of Visits.

Dwelling-houses	...	...	...	610
Complaints reported to Department	...	...	...	339
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	38
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	12
Food premises (see later section)	...	...	...	1264
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	4
Factories	...	...	...	111
Cinemas	...	...	...	14
Vacant Land and Dumps	...	...	...	4
Cesspools	...	...	...	20
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	128
Infectious Diseases and Contacts	...	...	...	46
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	411
Revisits to work in progress	...	...	...	544
				3545

Housing.

The follow table gives statisticts of housing work undertaken during the year.

It has again been found impracticable to carry out routine inspections of houses owing to the continued shortage of materials and the difficulty in obtaining the necessary skilled labour to carry out repairs.

As stated in previous reports many houses are far below a reasonable standard of fitness, nevertheless efforts must be made to retain these houses during the present acute shortage.

Five hundred and forty-four visits were made during the year to supervise repairs.

At present houses are inspected only upon receipt of complaint or following cases of infectious illness.

There was a further increase in the number of complaints received regarding defects at dwelling-house but in a large number of instances it was found that orders for necessary repairs to be executed had already been given by owners and agents but considerable delay often occurs before the work is carried out.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	610
Number of inspections, including re-inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	820

Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	335
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	... 303

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

(a) Disinfection.

Enquiries were made with regard to infectious diseases and contacts from infected areas abroad.

Disinfection of thirty-one rooms was carried out following cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, etc., and ten after cases of Tuberculosis and Cancer.

(b) Disinfestation.

(1) Eradication of bed bugs.

During the year one hundred and twenty-eight houses were found to be infested with bed bugs, consisting of nineteen council houses and one hundred and nine private houses.

Treatment with an effective insecticide was given in one hundred and twenty-one cases, but in seven cases the houses were so seriously affected that fumigation with liquid HCN gas was necessary.

(2) Other Vermin.

Five premises infested with ants, flies, woodworm, etc., were reported and treatment given.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are three registered Common Lodging Houses in the City and these have been well conducted during the year.

Moveable Dwellings.

Several applications for permission to maintain caravans on sites within the City have been received during the year and licenses were granted in three instances.

These are all satisfactorily sited as regards water supply, sanitary accommodation, town planning, etc.

Factories Act, 1937.

The following table shows the number of Factories, excluding bakehouses, registered in the City at the end of the year.

(a) Factories with mechanical power	...	184
(b) Factories without mechanical power	...	26

Many of these are small factories where only a few persons are employed.

The following defects were dealt with :—

Want of cleanliness	...	...	14
Accumulation of refuse	...	...	2
Sanitary conveniences :—			
Want of cleanliness	...	...	16
Unsuitable or defective	...	...	2
Insufficient	...	...	1

Swimming Bath.

Periodical inspections of the Corporation Swimming Bath at Cotton Mill Lane have been carried out and samples of the water have been submitted for bacteriological examination. Satisfactory reports were received from the laboratory.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

1. Premises.

The following table shows the visits paid to food preparing premises during the year:—

Grocery and provision shops	...	..	257
Bakehouses	...	...	84
Cooked food premises (including restaurant kitchens)	...	...	115
Fish shops	...	...	124
Slaughterhouses and butchers shops		...	278
Cowsheds, dairies and milkshops	...	...	205
Ice cream premises	...	..	82
Other food premises	...	...	119
			1264

Bakehouses.

At the end of the year there were thirty-four bakehouses on the register, including one underground bakehouse, but three were not used. During the year the use of one other underground bakehouse was discontinued.

A number of the bakehouses have painted walls and ceilings and at several the walls are tiled.

Periodical limewashing was regularly carried out at the remainder.

Manufacture of Preserved Foods, etc.

Inspections have also been made of premises where food is prepared or manufactured, *e.g.*, sausages. Structural alterations were carried out at two of these premises and redecoration at twelve.

Cafe—Restaurant Kitchens.

Cleansing and redecoration has been carried out at a number of refreshment premises, and in all one hundred and fifteen visits have been made to see that the kitchens and utensils are maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Fish Frying.

Nine premises are registered for fish frying and these were regularly visited and found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Grocery and Provision Shops.

Regular visits are made to grocery and provision shops in the City, and in addition frequent requests for the examination of articles of food are received from retailers.

A list of food condemned at these premises is included in a later paragraph.

Ice Cream Premises.

Ice cream premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, are as follows :—

Manufacture and sale of ice cream	...	10
Sale of ice cream		35

Regular inspection was made of these premises and at a number structural alterations and improvements have been carried out.

The premises used by retailers are all provided with portable cabinets for the storage of ice cream which is received in bulk from the manufacturers.

Hotels and Public Houses.

A number of visits were made to these premises and works of redecoration were carried out at eight houses.

At one house the men's lavatory accommodation is totally inadequate and I took the matter up with the owners. Plans for new and additional accommodation were prepared and approved by the local authority but subsequently the Ministry of Works refused an application for the licence. I have protested to the Ministry, pointing out that this particular house is an extremely popular one and is frequented by large numbers of visitors in addition to its regular customers, but at the time of preparing this report a reply had not been received.

Slaughterhouses and Butchers' Shops.

Regular inspections of butchers' shops have been carried out throughout the year,

All slaughtering of meat for St. Albans is carried out at the Government Slaughterhouse at Sandridge, and once a week assistance is given to the staff of the St. Albans Rural District Council by undertaking meat inspection at the slaughterhouse.

Milk Supply.

There are six producers of milk in the City, ten dairies and twelve retailers of milk.

Frequent visits were made to the cowsheds, dairies and milk shops during the year and these were found to be maintained in a cleanly condition.

2. Food and Drugs.

(a) Samples.

During 1947 one hundred and twenty-six samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis. These included sixty-seven samples of milk; three each of malted milk and cake mixture; two each of cinnamon, mixed spice, bi-carbonate of soda, black pudding, vinegar, and cocoa; one each of egg yellow flavouring, lemon flavouring, tincture of quinine, tea, table jelly, rissol-nut, semolina, diabetic marmalade, chocolate, coffee, "Rennies," fish cakes, faggot meat, oatmeal, barley flakes, baking powder, curry powder, lemon juice, sage and onion stuffing, mashed potatoe, dessert sauce powder, smoked herring spread, orange drink, horseradish cream, glycerine and blackcurrant pastilles, antiseptic balm, throat mints, "Koray," malted milk tablets, peppermint tablets, castor oil, glycerine, lemon and honey, "Kemtonic," crunchets, fish paste, limade, salad oil, "Emprote," chutney, pea flour and mustard.

Fifty-two samples of milk were obtained during the normal course of delivery by the retailer to the consumer and of these two (Samples numbered 98 and 118) were found to be deficient in fat to the extent of 5% and 13.7% respectively.

Further samples of milk were obtained in course of delivery from the producers to the retailers of these samples. It was found that the mornings' milks supplied to the Vendor of sample number 98 contained less than the minimum fat standard as laid down in the Sale of Milk Regulations and that the afternoon milks were above the standard. The attention of the Producers was drawn to these deficiencies with a view to effecting an improvement in the supply.

Samples taken in course of delivery from producers to the vendor of sample number 118 were found to be genuine and in consequence legal proceedings were instituted against the Vendor of the sample who pleaded "Guilty" and was fined £2 with £1 1s. costs.

As seen from the above list, a comprehensive range of miscellaneous samples was submitted for analysis, and it is pleasing to record that all were passed as genuine.

(b) Ice Cream.

Samples of ice cream were obtained from manufacturers and submitted for bacteriological examination. Of these, nine were placed in Grade 1, three in Grade 2, nine in Grade 3, and six in Grade 4.

When samples are reported in Grades 3 and 4 investigation is carried out, advice is given to the manufacturer and further samples are obtained with a view to securing improvement in the bacteriological standard.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations.

Defence Regulation 55G.

Six retailers in the City are licensed to sell "Tuberculin Tested" milk, two to sell "Accredited" milk and three to sell "Pasteurised" milk. In addition two producers are licensed by the Hertfordshire County Council to produce "Accredited" milk.

The following table shows the results of the bacteriological examination of samples of "Designated" milk during 1947. In the course of these examinations "Tuberculin Tested" and "Accredited" milks are submitted to the Methylene Blue and the Coliform Tests and "Pasteurised" and "Heat Treated" milk to the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Tests.

Designation	No. of Samples	Meth. Blue		B. Coli.		Phosphatase	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Tuberculin Tested	44 (53)	41 (43)	3 (10)	38 (46)	6 (7)	...	...
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised	18 (15)	18 (15)	... (3)	...	...	14 (13)	4 (2)
Accredited ...	12 (10)	10 (9)	2 (1)	12 (10)	...	...	...
Pasteurised ...	72 (56)	67 (53)	5 (3)	...	...	66 (53)	6 (3)
Heat Treated ...	27 (31)	27 (31)	...	...	...	25 (29)	2 (2)
Totals ...	173 (165)	163 (148)	10 (17)	50 (56)	6 (7)	105 (95)	12 (7)

The figures in brackets refer to the corresponding results in 1946.

Water Supply,

Quarterly samples of water from the main supply of the St. Albans Water Company have been submitted to the Public Analyst for bacteriological examination. The reports on these samples—which are in addition to monthly reports received from the Water Company—stated that the water possessed a high degree of bacteriological purity.

3. Inspection of Meat and other Foods.

The amount of unsound food condemned during the year at Ministry of Food Buffer Depôts, Wholesale and Retail Premises, etc., was as follows :—

Cheese	...	...	108 lbs.
Beef (Imported)	...	...	794 lbs.
Beef (Home killed)	..	...	74 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	228 lbs.
Chicken	...	...	170 lbs.
Sausages	...	...	140 lbs.
Pigs Maws	...	...	296 lbs.
Chestnuts	...	...	20 lbs.
Oatmeal	...	...	111 lbs.
Semolina	...	...	30 lbs.
Ground Rice	...	...	30 lbs.
Macaroni	...	...	10 lbs.
Vermicelli	...	...	56 lbs.
Bakers' Filler	...	...	560 lbs.
Raisins	...	...	12 lbs.
Prunes	...	...	25 lbs.
Sugar	...	...	8 lbs.
Butter Cream	...	...	28 lbs.

Flour	..	...	...	210 lbs.
Pickles	...	...	...	3872 lbs.
Dried Milk	...	...	...	9 lbs.
Sweets	...	...	...	141 lbs.
Ox Spleens	...	...	...	6 cwt.
Peas	...	...	...	7 cwt.
Bread Rusks		...	...	1 cwt.
Fish	...	...	...	208 stone.
Corned Beef (6 lb. tins)	...		...	130 tins.
Corned Beef (12 oz. tins)			...	382 tins.
Fish (tinned)		...	...	999 tins.
Milk (tinned)		...	...	1322 tins.
Stewed Steak (tinned)	...		...	61 tins.
Miscellaneous tins		...	...	1883
Miscellaneous jars		...	...	192
Miscellaneous packets	...		...	259
Fish Cakes	...	...	...	186
Australian Cap Ends	...		...	1080
Crumpets	...	...	...	47 trays.
Trifles	...	...	..	41 trays.
Ices	...	...	...	480 packets
Beetroot (canned)		...	...	374 cases.

